

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A polarizer comprising:

a multilayered structure ~~along a z-axis~~ having two or more transparent layers disposed along a z-axis of a three-dimensional orthogonal coordinate system (x, y, z) associated with the polarizer, at least two said layers having different refractive ~~indicies~~ indices relative to one another,

each said layer having a shape, each said layer being a unit of lamination, the shape of each said layer being in a form of an undulated structure, said undulated structure consisting of a set of co-directed undulations, said undulated structure being a regularly or non-regularly undulated structure, at least one of said layers having a variable thickness,

the lamination along the z-axis repeating the shape and being configured to polarize light incident upon said multilayered structure ~~for acting against the light such that the light thereby has a component whose angular incidence direction is not zero from the z-axis in the three-dimensional orthogonal coordinates (x, y, z) associated with the polarizer.~~

Claim 2 (currently amended): [[A]] The polarizer according to claim 1, wherein the polarizer has a first refractive medium layer containing at least one of Si and TiO₂ as a main component

and a second refractive medium layer containing SiO_2 as a main component.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A method for producing a polarizer comprising the steps of:

laminating on a substrate a first refractive medium layer and a second refractive medium layer with a regularly repeating shape, at least one of said first medium layer and said second medium layer having a variable thickness, said laminating performed by a film-forming method at least partly including a step of ~~dry~~ sputter etching said first refractive medium layer and said second refractive medium layer, said substrate having at most one of each of a single set of regularly arranged, co-directed grooves, a single set of regularly arranged, co-directed projections, a single set of non-intersecting projections, and a single set of co-directed, non-intersecting grooves.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A method of producing a polarizer, comprising the steps of:

laminating on a substrate a first refractive medium layer which contains at least one of Si and TiO_2 as a main component and a second refractive medium layer which contains SiO_2 as a main component with a regularly repeating shape, at least one of said first medium layer and said second medium layer having a

variable thickness, said laminating performed by a film-forming method at least partly including a step of ~~dry~~ sputter etching said first refractive medium layer and said second refractive medium layer, said substrate having at most one of each of a single set of regularly arranged, co-directed grooves, a single set of regularly arranged, co-directed projections, a single set of non-intersecting projections, and a single set of co-directed non-intersecting grooves.

Claim 5 (currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The polarizer according to claim 1, wherein ~~the shape of layers at least one of has a~~ the respective shape of at least one of said layers having a regularly undulated structure along the x-axis and ~~is~~ being uniform along a y-axis.

Claim 6 (currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The polarizer according to claim 1, wherein said first refractive medium layer has a first index of refraction, said second refractive medium layer has a second index of refraction, said first index of refraction being greater than said second index of refraction.

Claim 7 (currently amended): ~~[[A]]~~ The method for producing a polarizer according to claim 3, wherein said substrate has at least one of said thin and long projections and said thin and long grooves.